

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4507
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION IAEA VIENNA UNN
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS GENEVA 0197

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG, UN
SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP

REF: (A) STATE 004507; (B) GENEVA 9963

1. GENEVA GROUP (GG) MEETING ON JANUARY 11 BEGAN WITH DISCUSSION OF WHO 1978-1979 BUDGET WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM CAPITALS WHO ARE ATTENDING WHO EXECUTIVE BOARD. SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER VARIOUS ASPECTS OF PROPOSED BUDGET, SUCH AS HOW CASUAL INCOME IS HANDLED, THE EXCHANGE RATE OF 2.65 TO 1, AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S AND REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S DEVELOPMENT FUND.

2. HOWEVER, MOST COUNTRIES, WITH THE NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF THE U.S., FELT THEY COULD AT LEAST TOLERATE THE PROPOSED BUDGETARY INCREASES FOR 1978-1979. THE U.S. DEL STATED THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE UNABLE TO ACCEPT AN OVER-ALL BUDGET INCREASE OF 12.1 PER CENT IN 1968. (FURTHER DETAILS FOLLOW IN SEPTTEL.) THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF IMPORTANCE OF BEGINNING DISCUSSION OF UNCLASSIFIED

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1980-1981 WHO BUDGET, AND UK AGREED TO HAVE THAT SUBJECT ADDED TO EB AGENDA.

3. THE MEETING THEN TURNED TO THE PROPOSED AGENDA AND TIMING FOR THE GG CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING IN MARCH. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT ON AGENDA ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

(A) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CL DECISION ON INDICATIVE TARGET
FIGURES (ITF)

(1) REVIEW OF PROGRESS SINCE NEW YORK

(2) NEXT STEPS

A) COORDINATION WITHIN GOVERNMENTS; I.E., THOSE
RESPONSIBLE FOR PROGRAMS WITH THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR BUDGETS

B) DISCUSSION OF METHODOLOGY FOR FORMULATING ITF'S

C) SHOULD PROCESS BE EXTENDED TO OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS AND, IF SO, HOW?

(B) QUESTION OF REGULAR BUDGETARY FINANCING OF TECHNICAL
COOPERATION/ASSISTANCE

(C) INFORMAL COOPERATION WITH SOVIETS/OTHERS

(D) OTHER BUSINESS

4. PROPOSED ITEMS ON SECRETARIAT POSTS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
AND ICSC REVIEW OF METHODOLOGY FOR SALARY SURVEYS WERE ELIMINATED
BECAUSE OF GENERAL CONSENSUS THAT AGENDA WAS ALREADY LONG ENOUGH
FOR A TWO-DAY MEETING, AND RATHER THAN WATER DOWN THIS MEETING,
IT WOULD BE BETTER TO POSTPONE THESE ITEMS TO THE NEXT ONE.

5. THERE WAS OPPOSITION AND LITTLE SUPPORT TO CONTINUE CALLING
THE ITF EXERCISE THE FRENCH PROPOSAL. FRENCH REP SAID THAT WHAT
MATTERS WAS NOT THE LABEL BUT THAT ACTION WAS BEING TAKEN.

6. THE FRENCH TENTATIVELY AGREED TO PREPARE A PAPER ON METHOD-
OLOGY FOR ESTABLISHING ITF'S, AND AUSTRALIANS TENTATIVELY AGREED
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TO PREPARE SIMILAR PAPER ON QUESTION OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION/
ASSISTANCE TO SERVE AS STARTING POINTS FOR DISCUSSION. IN
ADDITION, U.K. "NON-PAPER" ON "NEXT STEPS" (PARA 2, REF B)
WILL BE TABLED. (IT MAY ALSO BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE SEPARATE
PAPERS CIRCULATED IN ADVANCE ON STATUS OF WORK ON ITF'S IN EACH
OF FOUR ORGANIZATIONS THUS FAR CONCERNED: WHO, ILO, FAO, UNESCO,
BUT THIS QUESTION HAS NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED.)

7. THE FRG PROPOSED AN ADDITIONAL ITEM ON THE UN SCALE OF
ASSESSMENTS, BUT MOST DELEGATIONS AGREED THAT IT WAS A MATTER
FOR DISCUSSION IN NEW YORK, NOT AT GG.

8. DATE OF MEETING WAS TENTATIVELY CHANGED TO MARCH 29 AND 30,
TO BE HELD AT GERMAN MISSION. CATTO

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